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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
27 May 1963

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Peiping Propaganda on Birmingham Rioting

1. In contrast to the heavy play given to US racial problems by Moscow since early May, Peiping has given the Birmingham story routine treatment in both press and radio. Brief news stories have been carried, with the usual distortions for propaganda emphasis, but there have been no major commentaries. In the Peiping People's Daily, available through 14 May, the riots have been noted only on the foreign news page (page 4). Photographs of rioters appeared on 7 and 9 May.

2. In its press and radio handling of the news stories, Peiping has stressed two propaganda themes: the militancy of the Negroes and Washington's purported cooperation with Alabama police in suppressing rights.

3. Excerpts from typical samples of Peiping's reporting are quoted below:

--6 May: In its initial coverage, NCNA noted that "ever since the current antisegregation campaign started in Birmingham, the Negro people in this city from children to adults have demonstrated solidarity and militancy." According to NCNA, when police attacked demonstrating Negroes with fire hoses, dogs, and truncheons, "the unarmed Negro demonstrators fought back in self-defense with rocks, bricks, and bottles. Hundreds of the demonstrators regrouped again and again, and there was more fighting."

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--7 May: See attached news photo from the People's Daily. Caption reads, "Negroes opposing racial discrimination have engaged in major demonstrations the past few days in Birmingham, a large city in the southern US. The authorities used extremely ferocious methods to quell the rioters. This picture, taken 3 May, shows a policeman in public releasing a police dog to bite a Negro demonstrator."

--9 May: See attached photo. Caption reads "American Negroes in Birmingham demonstrate against racial discrimination."

--14 May: A domestic service broadcast stated that President Kennedy, "throwing off his hypocritical mask completely," issued a statement on 12 May announcing that he had directed Defense Secretary McNamara to dispatch troops to Birmingham "to join the suppression there." Radio Peiping added that the attorney general had recently called meetings "to plan to deal with the Birmingham Negroes' demonstrations" and that the Negroes in Birmingham have decided to stage bigger demonstrations "to protest against the reactionary authorities' suppression and to realize their demand for racial equality."

--23 May: A typical NCNA broadcast noted that "American Negroes continue their demonstrations against racial discrimination in cities in the southern United States, in spite of persecution by racists, according to Washington reports." Demonstrations and arrests in Greensboro and Birmingham were noted. "Despite the mass arrests, the Negroes continue to fight," chiefly by boycotting stores owned by whites. Nevertheless, "with the connivance and support of the Kennedy administration, the racists continue to be unscrupulous in their attitude."



美国南部大城市伯明翰的黑人连日来举行反对种族歧视的大示威，当局竟使用最野蛮的手段进行镇压，仅在五月二日和三日的示威中，就有一千多人遭到逮捕。这是五月三日警察在街上公然放出警犬咬示威的黑人  
新华社发（传真照片）

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PEIPING PEOPLE'S DAILY



美国伯明翰黑人举行示威反对种族歧视

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